

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for forming a dispersion comprising non-lamellar amphiphile particles having improved phase behaviour, particle size distribution and/or storage stability, said method comprising forming a dispersion of lamellar and optionally non-lamellar particles comprising at least one structuring agent in a polar solvent, heating said particles to an elevated temperature, followed by cooling, wherein said heating is to a temperature and for a period sufficient to provide, after cooling, a measurable improvement in phase behaviour, particle size distribution and/or storage stability.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to a temperature and for a period sufficient to provide conversion of at least 50% of said lamellar particles to non-lamellar form, after cooling.
3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to a temperature and for a period sufficient to provide a narrowing of said particle size distribution, after cooling.
4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to a temperature and for a period sufficient to provide stabilisation of said particle size distribution after cooling.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said polar solvent is an aqueous solution.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said particles are colloidal.
7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed claim 1 wherein said particles comprise at least 50% of a structure forming amphiphilic component "a", up to 40% of at least one structure swelling agent "b" and up to 20% of a dispersion stabilising polymeric agent "c", wherein all parts are by weight relative to the total weight of a+b+c.
8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to a temperature of 75 to 200 C.
9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to an elevated temperature at which the equilibrium form of the particles is not non-lamellar.
10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is to an elevated temperature at which the equilibrium form of the particles is not liquid crystalline.
11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said heating is to an elevated temperature at which the equilibrium form of the particles is L₂ phase.
12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said heating is for a period of between 1 minute and 4 hours.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed claim 1 wherein said dispersion of lamellar and/or non-lamellar particles is formed by sonication and/or extrusion.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising drying said particles.

15. (Original) Amphiphile particles comprising at least one structuring agent, wherein at least 75% of the particles are non-lamellar.

16. (Currently Amended) Amphiphile particles ~~as claimed in claim 15~~ comprising at least one structuring agent, wherein at least 75% of the particles are non-lamellar formed by the method of claim 1 as defined above.

17. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein the size distribution of said particles is essentially stable to storage in dispersion in a polar solvent at room temperature for at least 10 days.

18. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein the size distribution of said particles is essentially stable to storage in dispersion at a concentration of 2% total amphiphile in a polar solvent at room temperature for at least 10 days

19. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 further comprising at least one active agent.

20. (Original) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 19 wherein said active agent is selected from human and veterinary drugs and vaccines, diagnostic agents, plant essential oils, plant extracts, aromas, cosmetic agents, nutrients, and dietary supplements.

21. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein said particles are colloidal.

22. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein said structuring agent is at least one selected from the group of natural lipids, synthetic lipids, surfactants and copolymers.

23. (Original) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 22 wherein said structuring agent is at least one selected from the group of glycerol monooleate (GMO), glycerol monolinoleate, diglycerol monooleate (DGMO), diglycerol monolinoleate, glyceryl dioleate, dioleoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine (DOPE), dioleoyl phosphatidylcholine (DOPC), phytantriol, and mixtures thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein said particles additionally comprise at least one fatty acid or fatty acid salt.

25. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 further comprising a fragmentation agent.

26. (Original) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 25 wherein said fragmentation agent is a polyethylene oxide copolymer; a lipid derivatised with polyethylene oxide, a hydrophobically modified polysaccharide, an amphiphilic protein or a mixture thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 comprising a structuring agent selected from glycerol monooleate (GMO), diglycerol monooleate (DGMO), glycerol dioleate, dioleoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine (DOPE) and mixtures of and further comprising a fragmentation agent selected from poloxamer 407, poloxamer 188, TMGO-15, dioleoyl phosphatidyl ethanolamine-polyethyleneglycol (5000), polysorbate 80 and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein said particles comprise at least 50% of a structure forming amphiphilic component "a", up to 40% of at least one structure swelling agent "b" and up to 20% of a dispersion stabilising polymeric agent "c", wherein all parts are by weight relative to the total weight of a+b+c.

29. (Previously Presented) Amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein the equilibrium form of the particles at room temperature is non-lamellar.

30. (Previously Presented) A dry powder comprising amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15.
31. (Previously Presented) A gel or cream comprising amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15.
32. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising amphiphile particles as claimed in claim 15.